

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SCA-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 311555Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3605

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: COLORED UNITY OVER LEON PASSPORT REFUSAL PROVES

SHORT-LIVED

REF: CAPE TOWN 565 AND 567

1. SUMMARY: ALL-PARTY COOPERATION IN COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL(CRC) PROVED SHORT-LIVED. LARGELY THROUGH DELAYING TACTICS GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY BLUNTED KNITED CRC PROTEST AGAINST DENIAL PASSPORT TO LABOR PARTY (LP) LEADER LEON AND INTERIOR MINISTER MULDER'S INSULT TO FEDERAL PARTY (FP) LEADER SWARTZ. CRC SESSION APPARENTLY TO END ON SEPTEMBER 12 NOT WITH BANG BUT WHIMPER/

2. UNPRECEDENTED UNANIMITY IN CRC OF MAJORITY FEDERAL PARTY AND MAJOR OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY ABOUT REFUSAL OF PASSPORT TO LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON AND IMPLIED INSULT BY MINISTER INTERIOR
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CONNIE MULDER OF FEDERAL PARTY LEADER TOM SWARTZ LASTED ONLY OVER

WEEKEND AUGUST 24-26. WHEN CRC AUGUST 27 SESSION WAS OPENED CHAIRMAN (SPEAKER) SANDERS READ MESSAGE JUST HANDED HIM FROM MINISTER COLORED RELATIONS VAN DER MERWE STATING THAT MULDER AND VAN DER MERWE WOULD SEE CRC COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF REGULAR CRC LIAISON COMMITTEE PLUS "COOPTED" REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PARTIES (INCLUDING LEON) AND INDEPENDENTS, NOR TOTAL OF 16, ON SEPTEMBER 11 FROM 8 A.M. TO 9:30 A.M. IN PRETORIA TO DISCUSS LEON AND SWARTZ COMPLAINTS. LEON IMMEDIATELY MOVED THAT CRC BE ADJOURNED BECAUSE DATE SET SO FAR AHEAD AND LP OBJECTIONS AS TO COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE (APPARENTLY LEON FELT IT WAS LOADED IN FAVOR OF EXECUTIVE OF CRC, WHICH IS ALL FP, AND THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF DEPUTATION WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THEIR VIEWS) LEON THOUGHT DELAY BEFORE MEETING AND ITS SHORT SCHEDULED DURATION SHOWED GOVERNMENT LACK OF INTEREST IN MATTER. HE ALSO OBJECTED TO FACT MEETING WAS SET AFTER ADJOURNMENT OF 1973 SESSION OF CRC SO NO REPORT BACK POSSIBLE.

3. WHEN SWARTZ OBJECTED TO LEON MOTION, LP WALKED OUT OF CHAMBER. BALANCE OF WEEK WAS MARKED BY CAUCUSES OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES, LP BOYCOTTS, SHORT ABORTIVE MEETING BETWEEN SWARTZ AND LEON, PLUS MEDIATION EFFORTS BY INDEPENDENTS AND MEMBERS OF SMALL CRC PARTIES, ALL OF WHICH FAILED. ON AUGUST 29 LP UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO HAVE COMPLETION OF OFFICIAL AGENDA FOR SESSION SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER "SATISFACTORY" MEETING WITH TWO CABINET MINISTERS. THIS MOTION FAILED BY 26 TO 25 VOTES, SLIMMEST MARGIN FOR FP THIS SESSION. ON AUGUST 30 LP MOTION TO END SESSION FORTHWITH AS PROTEST AGAINST ACTIONS OF MINISTER INTERIOR MULDER FAILED BY 28 TO 27 VOTES. INSTEAD AMENDMENT BY TOM SWARTZ THAT CRC GO INTO RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 AFTER COMPLETING ON AUGUST 31 LAST BITS OF PENDING BUSINESS WAS CARRIED. SWARTZ LATER CLAIMED RECESS WAS ITSELF FORM OF PROTEST.

4. AS RESULT WITHDRAWAL OF LP AND OTHERS, COMMITTEE WHICH WILL MEET WITH TWO MINISTERS WILL NOW CONSIST OF 8 FP MEMBERS AND THE ONE NATIONAL COLORED PARTY CRC MEMBER. LP DEPUTY LEADER CURRY POINTED OUT IN CRC THAT "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" TO CONFRONT GOVERNMENT FROM BASIS OF UNITY AND STRENGTH HAD BEEN LOST. TOM SWARTZ COUNTERED WITH CLAIM THAT LP WANTED TO DESTROY CRC AND THAT MOTIVES OF LP WERE "NOT HONORABLE". IN ITS TURN SOME LP MEMBERS IMPLIED THAT TOM SWARTZ HAD BEEN INSINCERE ON AUGUST 24 WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISION TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST LEON AND MULDER INSULT TO SWARTZ HIMSELF HAD BEEN UNANIMOUSLY REACHED.

5. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER PERSONALLY PHONED TOM SWARTZ AUGUST 28 TO SAY HE "WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY" TO MEET CRC COMMITTEE IN PRETORIA ON SEPTEMBER 11, EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE IN VIEW TIMING OF NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS. VORSTER ALSO TOLD SWARTZ HE WAS SURE INTERIOR MINISTER MULDER HAD NOT MEANT TO INSULT HIM.

6. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT YREHQIL#BY ITS DELAYING TACTICS AND
BY SIMPLE TACTIC OF PERSONAL PHONE CALL BY PRIME MINISTER
TO SWARTZ TO HAVE DEFUSED POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN COLORED LEADERSAND GOVERNMENT
AND AS SIDE BENEFIT TO HAVE DESTROYED WHAT SLIM
CHANCE THERE WAS THAT FP AND LP MIGHT CONTINUE THEIR SHORT-LIVED
COOPERATION IN PURSUING INTERESTS OF COLORED PEOPLE.
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NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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